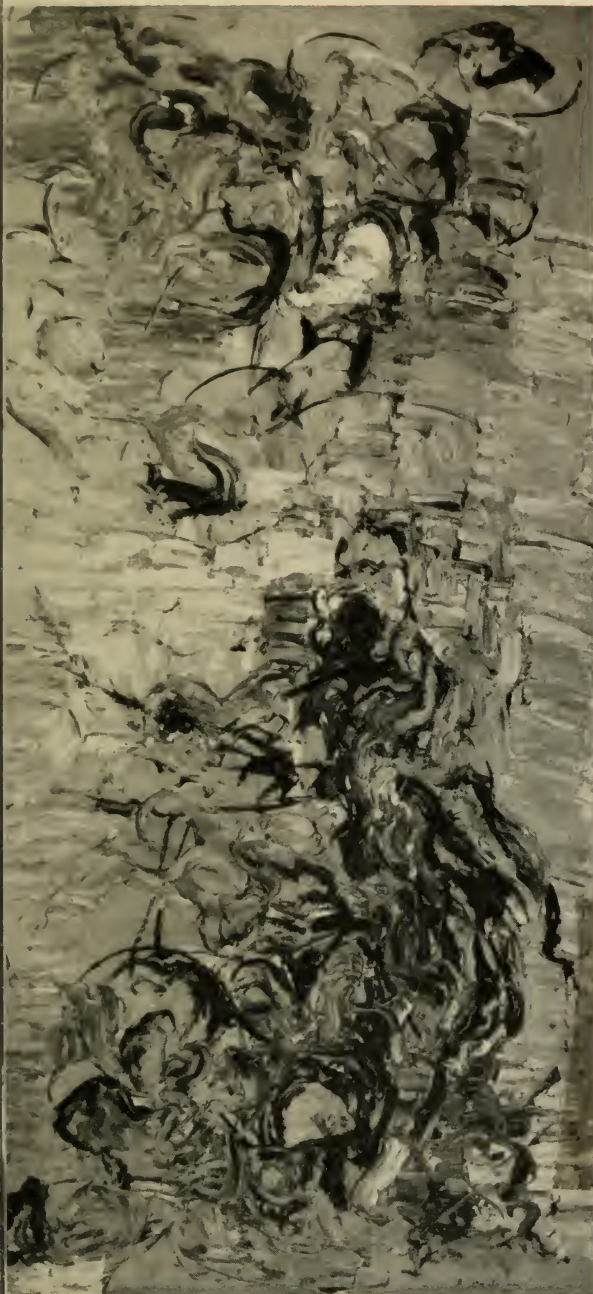


I S T R A T I



march 25 - april 19, 1958

Rebay

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World House Galleries

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Alexandre Istrati

Istrati was one of the very first of his generation to commit himself to a direction which announced its avowals and necessary refusals in the firmest tones. He immediately marked it with his personal inflection by a violent rush of color accompanied by an expansion of the picture-space under the pressure of internal forces. It is this expansion which Henri Focillon defined as the condition of the baroque, that most intense, most liberated moment in the life of forms, when the majesty of painting manifests itself.

To explain the special and highly personal contributions of Istrati, I am tempted to find racial causes and early formative influences. Indeed, can one not establish a true line of filiation between the art of this painter, born in Rumania, and the stylistic conception of the Byzantine, one of his distant forebears, which Georges Duthuit has described as "turning to the earth not with the intention of imitating the inimitable, but of borrowing from it materials equivalent in splendor, in richness or in limpidity . . . And from the crucible in which it remelts the oxides, rise up its own horizons peopled with its own creations. The boldly massed spots of color maintain their frank relations of weight and intensity . . ."

By a powerful physical and mental operation, Istrati effects a similar transubstantiation. Painting without reserve or restraint, he is assured of the ardent possession of a universe **interiorized**. A triumphal paean, like a pantheist Magnificat in a major key, goes up from his canvases, illuminated in their turn by one of the color dominants — red, blue, yellow, green — of his dazzling palette.

Paris, 1957

Roger van Gindertael
(translated by Sidney Geist)



CATALOGUE

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Green and Blue 1956
51 x 63½" | 13 | Yellow 1957
31¾ x 25½" |
| 2 | Red 1956
51½ x 38½" | 14 | Black and Ochre 1957
32 x 21¼" |
| 3 | Green and Red 1956
18 x 15" | 15 | Red 1957
28¾ x 23½" |
| 4 | Harmony in Yellow 1956
50¾ x 63½"
Coll. Evangeline Zalstem-Zalesky | 16 | Dark Green and Blue 1957
31½ x 50¾" |
| 5 | Clear Blue 1957
63½ x 51" | 17 | White 1957
28¾ x 23½" |
| 6 | Blue 1957 (cover)
63¼ x 31½" | 18 | Composition 1957
57¼ x 45" |
| 7 | Blue 1957
51½ x 38½" | 19 | Composition 1957
51¼ x 51¼" |
| 8 | White and Red 1957
51½ x 38¼" | 20 | Composition 1957
39¼ x 32" |
| 9 | Orange 1957
39½ x 28¾" | 21 | Composition 1957
51 x 38¼" |
| 10 | Black 1957
39½ x 31¾" | 22 | Green and Ochre 1958
8⅝ x 6¼" |
| 11 | Blue 1957
36¼ x 28½" | 23 | Green and Yellow
8¾ x 10¾" |
| 12 | Blue 1957
36¼ x 28½" | 24 | Dark Red
63½ x 51" |

Prices on Request

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